(b) if so, the details thereof country-wise; and

(c) the trade reported so far with each country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) India has a Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) with Singapore which came into force from 1st August, 2005.

(c) Trade figure with Singapore for the year 2004-05 and 2005-06 are given as below:—

(Value in US$ millions)

	2004-05		2005-06		Percentage growth	
	Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports
April-August	1380	896	2,313	1,100	67.6	22.7
August-March	2621	1755	3,257	2.130	24.3	21.4
April-March	4001	2651	5,570	3,230	39.2	21.8

Countries posing threat to Indian exports

870. SHRI MAM. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Sri Lanka, Kenya, Vietnam, Indonesia and Guatemala have emerged as major threats to Indian exports;

(b) if so, the total quantum of exports of Indian tea, pepper and cardamom during the last three years, *vis-a-vis* above countries; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to boost plantation sector in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIJAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Quantum of exports of Indian tea, pepper and cardamom *vis-a-vis* that of competing countries during the last three years is given below:

Tea

(Figures in M. Kgs.)

Countries	2003	2004	2005*
India	173.68	197.67	191.85
Sri Lanka	290.57	290.60	298.77
Indonesia	88.18	98.57	101.00
China	259.98	280.19	286.34
Vietnam	59.90	70.00	88.00
Kenya	269.27	333.80	349.74

(Quantity: MT)

Pepper:			
India	17787	14049	16200
Sri Lanka	8240	5353	8000
Vietnam	74800	98494	91000
Indonesia	52500	37700	29000
Cardamom:			
India	682	757	650
Guatemala	19086	28569	28615

(c) A number of development schemes are being implemented by the Govt, of India through commodity Boards for enhancing production, productivity, quality and marketability of the plantation commodities *viz.* Coffee, Tea & Rubber and Spices under which financial and technical assistance is provided for over all development of this Sector. The Boards are also conducting promotional activities in foreign markets and lending promotional support to Indian exporters in their marketing efforts. These include participation in various fairs and exhibitions, field sampling at speciality stores and principal markets, media publicity, Buyer-Seller Meets exchange of delegations, etc. Spiecs Board has given assistance for setting up/upgradation of in-house laboratories of exporters for testing among other things, pesticide residues, aflatoxinm, physical, chemical and microbial contaminants and chemical composition of spices.